

WASH WG North Greece

Meeting Notes – 19th August 2016

Agenda WASH Working Group Northern Greece:

1. Action point update from previous meeting
 2. Update on permanence of all sites in the North of Greece
 3. Organisational update on WASH issues in the camps – all sites
 4. Update from the Hygiene Promotional Technical Working Group
 5. Any other business
 6. Action Points
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1. Action point update from previous meeting

Water Tests in Alexandria

Issues with the water in Alexandria were caused by municipal system which was recently cleaned.

- Despite this, the initial water was found to be contaminated with low levels of E. Coli
- Water bottles were distributed until water quality tests were developed.
- Refugees had previously requested an official water test to be conducted by the municipality (DAYA)
- The water is safe to drink. However, the refugees are now demanding for an independent water test to take place in their presence.
- There is no clarification at this stage in the role of the army in carrying out water tests and no clear procedure as to who should be responsible for engaging with the community on site.
- It is recommended that the WASH focal leads engage directly with the army on the sites to ensure that they have clear procedures on how to identify and address water quality issues.

Serres Camp

- UNHCR provided an update on Serres camp.
- Refugees are living inside an agriculture school which contains bedrooms and WASH facilities (3 men and 4 women) inside.
- 20 chemical toilets have been placed outside the school
- Ministry is preparing the area outside.
- 11 containers have already been placed.

2. Update on permanence of all sites in the North of Greece

- Ministry has announced that there is an official list of sites which will close or remain opened but list has not yet been made public.
- Some sites such as Giannitsa are seeing a current change in population. This will have an effect on the number of facilities required on the sites.
- The political changes will also encourage people to leave the sites.

- It has been discussed that there are plans to mothball sites, which will be ready for potential influx of refugees to arrive. This information will be confirmed when it is shared.

3. *Organisational update on WASH issues in the camp – all sites*

Nea Kavala

- Samaritans Purse have plans to build two water tanks and hand washing station, however the construction is slowly progressing due to many people taking leave for summer holidays
- SP are carrying out water tests twice a month to ensure the previous issues with water quality are not repeated.

Radestos

- UNHCR are addressing the WASH issues in Radestos in coordination with IMC
- They have stated that there is a consumption of 50 litres of water per person in Orekastro and have asked that other organisations also share the consumption of water per sites for statistics reasons.

Fragapol

- IMC has been focusing on a winter plan for Fragapol as the most difficult period for refugees will be between September and October due to the rain and the population will most likely remain in the camp during this period.

Diavata, Giannitsa and Alexandria

- IRC attended a meeting with the ministry and other agents in Diavatta to discuss the future plans for the camp.
- There is uncertainty regarding the future of Cherso but IRC plans to continue construction on the site.
- In Alexandria and Giannitsa, the WASH facilities are near completion and IRC has started to focus on winter plans for their camps

4. *Update from the hygiene promotion technical working group*

- The HPWG have been discussing the current public health issues arising in the camp which include: scabies, hepatitis A, diarrhoea, tonsillitis and vomiting.
- It was announced that children in Orekastro are getting burnt with cooking items (7 cases so far)
- There is a shortage of diapers in the sites due to their high costs and coordination is required from all agencies to fill the gaps
- Winter plans will be discussed in the next meeting which will be held on **Monday, August 22nd 3:30pm at IMC office Kalapothaki 4, Coordinate N 40.6335521 E 22.9367048**

5. *Any Other Business*

Norwegian Church Aid

- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) could not be present at this time in this meeting, but have asked that their contribution be read at this meeting.

- NCA would be interested to fill gaps in WASH in the camps surrounding Thessaloniki. They can provide the full WASH package but would also be able to take on activities like the installation of hardware including container solutions.
- They have also discussed with NRC that they would be able to take over the role of WASH lead in Orekastro.
- NCA is also considering taking a look at Serres, Drama and Kavala

6. Action Points

- Next WASH Working Group is in two weeks' time at 09:30, in the Ministry of Macedonia and Thrace.
- **[All organisations/Deadline: 02/09]**
- Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group (HPTWG) meeting
- **[All organisations/Deadline: 22/08]**
- HPWTG meeting minutes to be shared
- **[All organisations/Deadline: 19/08]**

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